

Message

From: Henry, JeannaR [Henry.Jeannar@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/24/2022 9:00:21 PM
To: Melvin, Karen [Melvin.Karen@epa.gov]; Armstrong, Joan [Armstrong.Joan@epa.gov]; Hall, Kristen [hall.kristen@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Scrubgrass Power Plant

Hi ladies,

It appears ORCR and OECA are evaluating whether or not "waste coal" may be considered "coal". If they determine it meets the definition of "coal" the power plants being purchased for mining cryptocurrency may end up on the CCR list. Rachel will be meeting with ORCR in the coming weeks to discuss this further. I'm sure it'll be a topic for the national CCR call.

Thanks!
Jeanna



Jeanna R. Henry
Branch Chief
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From: Mirro, Rachel <mirro.rachel@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Henry, JeannaR <Henry.Jeannar@epa.gov>; Dinsmore, Andrew <Dinsmore.Andrew@epa.gov>; Daw, Harry <daw.harry@epa.gov>; Isales, Daniel <Isales.Daniel@epa.gov>; Matlin, Martin <Matlin.Martin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Scrubgrass Power Plant - NOT on CCR List

Folks,

This article was released today. <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-announces-25-million-investment-in-economic-recovery-for-abandoned-mine-lands/>.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

I plan to set up a meeting with ORCR in the coming weeks to discuss the waste coal universe in R3 further.

Sincerely,

Rachel Mirro

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1650 Arch Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103 | 215.814.3441 | mirro.rachel@epa.gov

From: Henry, JeannaR <Henry.Jeannar@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:25 AM

To: Mirro, Rachel <mirro.rachel@epa.gov>

Cc: Dinsmore, Andrew <Dinsmore.Andrew@epa.gov>; Daw, Harry <daw.harry@epa.gov>; Isales, Daniel <Isales.Daniel@epa.gov>; Matlin, Martin <Matlin.Martin@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Scrubgrass Power Plant - NOT on CCR List

Good morning Rachel,

Thank you so much for all of the information you provided. It is very helpful, and I'm glad to hear ORCR is aware. I'll keep you posted on the air side of things.

Thanks!

Jeanna



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From: Mirro, Rachel <mirro.rachel@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 7:45 AM

To: Henry, JeannaR <Henry.Jeannar@epa.gov>

Cc: Dinsmore, Andrew <Dinsmore.Andrew@epa.gov>; Daw, Harry <daw.harry@epa.gov>; Isales, Daniel <Isales.Daniel@epa.gov>; Matlin, Martin <Matlin.Martin@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Scrubgrass Power Plant - NOT on CCR List

Good morning,

Thanks Jeanna. We are aware of Scrubgrass and a few other sites using their pants for mining. None of these sites are covered under the rule.

One of the things we've been working through with ORCR is the concept of waste coal, which EPA does not define under the CCR Rule. (See this article for more information on waste coal: [Waste Coal | Energy Justice Network](#)). R3, mostly PA, has about 18 sites. We do not have a list of all of them.

As for Scrubgrass, we learned of then last October, and Just in early January we discovered they acquired Panther Creek Plant.

- <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/11/08/2329798/0/en/Stronghold-Digital-Mining-Closes-Panther-Creek-Plant-Acquisition-Increasing-Owned-Power-Generation-Capacity-to-165-Megawatts.html>
- <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/stronghold-digital-mining-exceeds-1-210500000.html>
- <https://newsinteractive.post-gazette.com/burning-for-bitcoin/>

When the Part A Rollout was released the NY Times also requested information on this process and waste coal, but for Grant Town Power Plant, which is in WV and owned by Senator Manchin and his son (EnerSystems). ORCR has asked me to go over this on an upcoming call.

- [Cryptocurrency plan fails for Manchin-connected coal plant - E&E News \(eenews.net\)](#)

- <https://www.eenews.net/articles/a-coal-plant-fights-to-stay-open-it-could-enrich-manchin/>
- <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2021/11/23/opening-the-spr-taps-799051>

Lastly, and I have been discussing this with Harry and Dan, is that PADEP determined the waste to be a Tier II Alternative Energy Source. I am not sure how that would impact ECAD, but for LCRD it may impact PADEP's regulations when seeking approval for their permit program. See the hearing document below for more information:

- https://files.dep.state.pa.us/aboutdep/Testimony/2020/2020.02.03_JLCC_Waste_Coal_Hearing_DEP_Testimony.pdf

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Rachel Mirro

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From: Henry, JeannaR <Henry.Jeannar@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Matlin, Martin <Matlin.Martin@epa.gov>; Mirro, Rachel <mirro.rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Dinsmore, Andrew <Dinsmore.Andrew@epa.gov>; Daw, Harry <daw.harry@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Scrubgrass Power Plant - on CCR list?

Thanks, Martin!



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FYI, for a little more info, I think this is their ECHO page:

<https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110005981296>

And here's a brief summary I found, looks like a corporate page:

http://negt.com/asset_scrubgrass.html

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From: Henry, JeannaR <Henry.Jeannar@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 4:07 PM
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Cc: Dinsmore, Andrew <Dinsmore.Andrew@epa.gov>; Daw, Harry <daw.harry@epa.gov>
Subject: Scrubgrass Power Plant - on CCR list?

Hi Martin and Rachel,

I recently learned that companies are purchasing old power plants and using them to mine cryptocurrency (it has a lot of attention due to air emissions). We received an inquiry from E&E news regarding the "Scrubgrass" facility in Venango County, PA. Can you let me know if this facility is on the CCR list? Also, has the use of old power plants being used for bit coin mining been discussed during the monthly CCR call?

Thanks!



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